

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03058 112335Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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P 112242Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4854

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: FOCUS ON ARMS RAIDS CONTINUES

REF: SANTIAGO 3007

1. SUMMARY. MILITARY RAIDS SEARCHING FOR ILLEGAL WEAPONS CONTINUE. CARABINERO DIRECTOR CONFIRMED IN POST AND SECOND RANKING OFFICER RETIRED, IN WAKE OF RUMORS ALLENDE WANTED TO OUST FORMER IN CONNECTION WITH JUNE 29 EVENTS. PURPORTED PATRIA Y LIBERTAD STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED PARTICIPATION IN JUNE 29 COUP ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONTINUING MILITARY SEARCH FOR ILLEGAL ARMS (REFTEL) ARMY UNITS RAIDED HOUSE OF MAPU MEMBER IN PUENTE ALTO SUBURB OF GREATER SANTIAGO JULY 10 AND FOUND SMALL QUANTITY OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES. TWO OCCUPANTS OF HOUSE ARRESTED. NAVY ISSUED STATEMENT ASSERTING THAT SOME ILLEGAL ITEMS FOUND IN JULY 8 RAID ON DINAC WAREHOUSE IN VALPARAISO (REFTEL) AND FIVE PRISONERS TAKEN; DINAC REPLIED THAT NOTHING ILLEGAL HAD BEEN FOUND AND CHARGED THAT NAVY RAIDERS HAD DESTROYED SOME FOODSTUFFS IN THEIR ENTHUSIASM. OPPOSITION PRESS PRINTED RUMORS THAT A CUBAN SHIP DELIVERING SUGAR HAD BEEN SEARCHED BY NAVAL UNITS. MEANWHILE, MININTERIOR BRIONES AND MINDEFENSE ALMEYDA APPEARED IN SENATE THIS MORNING FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON ARMS CONTROL LAW, ITS EXECUTION BY ARMED FORCES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 03058 112335Z

AND REPORTED ARMING OF WORKERS BY EXTREMISTS.

3. PRESS REPORTED CARABINERO DIRECTOR GEN. JOSE MARIA SEPULVEDA HAD BEEN CONFIRMED IN HIS POST BY PRES ALLENDE AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GEN. RAMON VIVEROS' APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. SPECULATION ON IMPENDING CHANGES IN CARABINEROS HAS BEEN RIFE FOR SOME TIME, AND THERE ARE REPORTS ALLENDE HAS LONG WANTED TO REMOVE SEPULVEDA. EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT ALLENDE WAS UPSET OVER SEPULVEDA'S FAILURE TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO CHILE FROM EUROPEAN JUNKET ONCE HE HEARD OF JUNE 29 COUP ATTEMPT AND SEMI-PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD FIRE HIM. VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER CARABINERO GENERALS, HEARING PRESIDENT WOULD REACH DOWN TO EIGHTH RANKING OFFICER GEN RUBEN ALVAREZ (PURPORTEDLY PRO-UP) FOR NEW DIRECTOR, THEREBY FORCING MORE SENIOR OFFICERS INTO RETIREMENT, PRESENTED RESIGNATION AS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY IN FACE OF ATTACK ON INSTITUTION. UPON HIS RETURN TO CHILE JULY 11, SEPULVEDA ALLEGEDLY TOLD ALLENDE HE HAD NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COME BACK (ALTHOUGH VIVEROS REPORTEDLY TELEPHONED HIM AT SOME TIME JUNE 29), AT WHICH POINT ALLENDE DECIDED TO RETAIN SEPULVEDA AND RETIRE VIVEROS. THERE IS ALSO REPORT ALLENDE WAS UPSET THAT CARABINEROS HAD NOT ALERTED GOVT TO IMMINENT ATTACK ON MONEDA JUNE 29. IN ANY EVENT, OUR SOURCES INDICATE SENIOR CARABINERO OFFICERS NOW SATISFIED THAT INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY OF POLICE HAS BEEN MAINTAINED.

4. WORKER OCCUPATIONS OF VARIOUS BUSINESS ENTERPRISES CONTINUE. EXTREME LEFTISTS SEIZED BANK OF CURICO (FORMERLY EDUARDS BANK) EVENING JULY 9, DEMANDING OUSTER PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS, ALL UP MEMBERS. ONE GROUP OF WORKERS BRIEFLY TOOK OVER PRINCIPAL INSTALLATIONS OF GOVT ENDESA ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, RAISING OPPOSITION OUTCRY (PITCHED TO MILITARY EARS) ABOUT DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF EXTREMIST TAKEOVER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES. THERE ARE ALSO RUMBLINGS OF VARIOUS LABOR STRIKES ON THE HORIZON (SEPTEL).

5. UP MEDIA HEADLINED STATEMENT DATED JUNE 29, DAY OF COUP ATTEMPT, ATTRIBUTED TO PATRIA Y LIBERTAD LEADERS WHO HAD REQUESTED ASYLUM IN ECUADOREAN EMBASSY. STATEMENT ADMITTED THEY WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORT "TO OVERTHROW MARXIST GOVT OF CHILE," EXPRESSED THEIR DISMAY THAT (LOYAL) MILITARY WOULD FIRE UPON (REBEL) MILITARY, NOTED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SUPPORT

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 03058 112335Z

"PREVIOUSLY PLEDGED BY OTHER MILITARY UNITS" FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, AND VOWED TO FIGHT ON (PRESUMABLY FROM QUITO) FOR FINAL VICTORY.

6. NEW MININTERIOR CARLOS BRIONES ISSUED LENGTHY STATEMENT JULY 9 WHICH STRESSED GOVT'S "DISPOSITION TO DIALOGUE" ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS THREE AREAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, UNIV OF CHILE TV CHANNEL, RECENT WORKER OCCUPATIONS OF INDUSTRIES,

AND OTHER PROBLEMS, SPEAKING FOR COMMUNISTS AND CITING
PARTY SEC GEN CORVALAN'S CALL FOR DIALOGUE (SANTIAGO 3008)
PCCH DEPUTY MIREYA BALTRA CLAIMED GOVT DESIRES REACH
"UNDERSTANDINGS" WITH "DEMOCRATIC" OPPOSITION (E.E. PDC).
PDC DEPUTY AND YOUTH LEADER RICARDO HORMAZABAL ANNOUNCED
HIS BELIEF THAT PDC/GOVT CONVERSATIONS WERE BOTH POSSIBLE
AND DESIRABLE.
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